

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02069 130748Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 AID-05 H-01
HA-05 /056 W

-----117385 132223Z /15

R 130652Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7600
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2069

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: OTRA, PORG, SREF, UNRWA, SY
SUBJECT: VISIT OF LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANTS TO UNRWA

REF: STATE 91777

1. DIRECTOR UNRWA LOCAL OFFICE, WILHELM AF SILLEN, TOLD EMBOFFS HE WOULD BE MAKING ALL NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDING PROGRAM, TRANSPORTATION, AND HOTELS FOR STAFFDEL MCCALL AND ASHWORTH. HE HAS NOT YET RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO GO AHEAD WITH PLANS, BUT WILL KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED. SILLEN ANTICIPATED PROBLEMS WITH CAMP VISITS SINCE TENSION IN CAMPS REMAINS HIGH AND SECURITY IS VERY TIGHT. REFUGEES WERE ANGRY AT NOT BEING ALLOWED BY SARG TO GO TO LEBANON TO FIGHT. SILLEN SAID SARG HAS CLOSED BORDER TIGHT TO ANY REFUGEE TRAFFIC FROM LEBANON OR TO LEBANON. THIS HAS CAUSED ANXIETY AMONG MANY FAMILIES WHO HAVE RELATIVES IN LEBANON. SILLEN DOWNPLAYED RECENT INCIDENT AT YARMOUK CAMP AS DEMONSTRATION BY SCHOOL CHILDREN WHICH WAS QUICKLY DISPERSED BY SECURITY FORCES. NEVERTHELESS, SARG HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO AUTHORIZE VISITS AT THIS TIME. SITUATION FURTHER COMPLICATED BY ILLNESS OF SARG'S DIRECTOR FOR PALESTINIAN
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REFUGEE AFFAIRS AND THE RETICENCE OF HIS ASSISTANT TO MAKE ANY IMPORTANT DECISIONS IN HIS ABSENCE.

2. SILLEN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD MCCALL AND ASHWORTH WERE INTERESTED IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND DID NOT WANT USUAL TOUR OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING, SCHOOLS, OR HEALTH FACILITIES. HE FURTHER UNDERSTOOD THAT STAFFDEL DID NOT WANT TO TALK TO

SARG OFFICIALS FORMALLY. EMBOFFS SAID THIS WAS NOT THEIR
UNDERSTANDING, BUT WE WOULD CONSULT FURTHER AFTER SILLEN
RECEIVES HIS INSTRUCTIONS.
PELLETREAU

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, COMMITTEES, PLANNING MEETINGS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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